

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ABU DH 01135 161521Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

-----161523Z 111357 /47

R 160925Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5944

INFO AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 1135

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

DEPARTMENT FOR M AND NEA ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER, AMGT, AFSP

SUBJECT: REPLACEMENT OF AID ATTACHE

REF: STATE 083718

1. IF NEW ADMINISTRATION SERIOUS ABOUT REDUCING GOVERNMENT
WASTE, THEN REGIONAL AID ATTACHE POSITION SHOULD BE ABOLISHED.
WE HAVE FOUND GULF REGIONAL AID OPERATION TO BE OF MARGINAL
UTILITY AND IT CERTAINLY SHOULD NOT RPT NOT BE CONTINUED IF
PRESENT INCUMBENT IS TO BE REPLACED. TO DO SO WOULD MAKE
IT APPEAR THAT THIS POSITION IS SUBJECT TO POLITICAL
PATRONAGE.

2. OUR EXPERIENCE HAS BEEN THAT REIMBURSABLE TECH-
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NICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO SUC-
CEED ARE THOSE WHICH UAE WANTS AND HAS RAISED WITH
US, NOT OTHER WAY AROUND. ALL PROJECTS THUS FAR HAVE
BEEN DEVELOPED BY UAE MINISTERS CONTACTING MY PREDECESSOR
OR MYSELF AND THIS IS WAY IT LIKELY TO BE IN FUTURE. WITH
NEW MINISTER OF PLANNING NOW IN SADDLE, WE CAN IN FACT
EXPECT THAT NUMBER OF REQUESTS MAY GROW AND BE MORE THAN

WE CAN HANDLE.

3. WHILE UAE IS COUNTRY WHERE THERE COULD BE NUMBER OF REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS, EMBASSY RESOURCES ARE SIMPLY TOO SMALL AND TOO STRETCHED TO SUPPORT MANY OF THEM. MY POSITION HAS BEEN THAT WE SHOULD NOT TAKE ON MORE THAN TWO OR THREE PROJECTS SO THAT WE CAN GIVE THEM SOME DEGREE OF SUPERVISION AND FOLLOW THEIR PROGRESS. WE SHOULD NOT CONSIDER OTHER PROGRAMS UNLESS THEY CAN BE HANDLED BY SHORT TERM TDY ASSIGNMENTS. THUS HAVING REGIONAL AID ATTACHE OR AID OFFICIAL COMING FROM WASHINGTON TO STIMULATE REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS WILL NOT SERVE OUR PURPOSES, UNLESS THIS EMBASSY IS GIVEN MINIMUM ADDITIONAL RESOURCES THAT IT HAS REPEATEDLY BEEN ASKING FOR. MOREOVER, THESE VISITS SIMPLY ADD ANOTHER BURDEN ON EMBASSY BECAUSE WE HAVE TO TRY AND MAKE APPOINTMENTS ON BUSY UAE OFFICIALS, ARRANGE FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS OR PUT VISITORS UP AT HOMES OF EMBOFFS, WORK OUT TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS, ETC.

4. FOREGOING COMMENTS ARE NOT INTENDED TO REFLECT ON PERFORMANCE OF PRESENT INCUMBENT DODSON AND ON WHAT HE HAS TRIED TO DO. DODSON HAS BEEN ENERGETIC AND CONSCIENTIOUS IN HIS EFFORTS TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE AID REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AMONG UAE OFFICIALS AND HE HAS MADE A POSITIVE IMPRESSION ON THEM. HE HAS ALSO ACQUIRED A GOOD HANDLE ON HOW PROJECTS ARE DEVELOPED IN UAE. IF HIS POSITION IS ABOLISHED, I HOPE THAT HIS EXPERIENCE WILL BE PUT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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DICKMAN

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Message Attributes

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